by constituting Appropriate Authorities at district and State levels and making punishments more stringent.

The State Government has been advised to mount campaigns for spreading awareness on the provisions of the Act and closely inspect ultrasound clinics indulging in sex determination etc.

Religious leader's meet has been organized at Fatehgarh Sahib in Punjab against the practice of female foeticide where this practice was widely condemned and the Akal Takht issued Hukumnama to Sikh Community to stop the practice of female foeticide.

Production of Banned Drugs

543. SHRIAIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of drugs which are globally banned are still being produced, stocked and freely administered to the patients in the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is recognized world over that these drugs have serious side effects when taken for a long time and without medical advice; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) It is not a fact that large number of drugs banned globally are freely marketed in the country.There is no such system as global banning of drugs. Drugs withdrawn in some countries may continue to be .used by other countries and the decision rests on various factors such as the disease pattern in a country, the varying reaction of certain ethnic groups in a given population to the drug, the availability of safer substitutes as well as the cost factor involved in the treatment of the diseases.

There is an adequate mechanism to review the status of drugs in India as and when any serious adverse event is reported in international journals or WHO news letters etc. 75 drugs/drug formulations have so far been prohibited through the review process.

The drug or formulations reported to be discontinued in some deveoped countries are assessed in consultation with leading experts in the given specializations. Based on their advice and factors like benefit-risk ratio, local needs etc. the matter is placed before the Drug Technical Advisory Board (DTAB), a statutory body under Drug & Cosmetics Act which comprises of representatives from the medical profession, the state drug enforcement authorities and other experts, institutions and agencies and which advises Government on technical issues related to the implementations of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 194-and Rules, 1945.

Construction of A super Speciality Hospitai-Cum-Research Centre at Madurai

544. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has forwarded a proposal for construction of super speciality Hospital-cum-research centre at Madurai on the lines of AIIMS;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In the year 2001, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had recieved a copy of the proposal sent by the Government of Tamil Nadu to the Planning Commission for establishing a Referral Hospital and Institute of Post Ggaduate Medical Education and Research near Madurai at a total cost of Rs. 123.10 crores envisaging provision of all modern facilities required for super specialities.

Health being a State subject, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is not having any scheme for providing financial assistance to the State Govenrments for setting up institutions in the field of medicine and health. This position was informed to the Planning commission and also to the Government ofTamil Nadu.